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Appl. No. 10/537,897
Atty. Ref.: 4982-5
Amendment After Final Rejection
December 7, 2010

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for increasing plant yield under conditions promoting plant growth relative to a corresponding wild type plant under said conditions, comprising transforming a plant with a nucleic acid sequence encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein, said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein comprising the following motifs (i) – (iv):
(i) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO:51;
(ii) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 7;
(iii) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 8; and
(iv) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 9; to produce a modified plant; growing said plant under said conditions; and selecting said modified plant having increased yield as compared to a corresponding wild type plant.

2. (Previously Presented) A method for increasing leaf surface area under conditions promoting plant growth relative to a corresponding wild type plant under said conditions, comprising transforming a plant with a nucleic acid sequence encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein, said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein comprising the following motifs (i) – (iv):

(i) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO:51;
(ii) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 7;
(iii) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 8;
(iv) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 9; to produce a modified plant;

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growing said plant under said conditions; and

selecting said modified plant having increased leaf surface area as compared to a corresponding wild type plant.

3. (Previously Presented) A method for prolonging vegetative growth phase of a plant under conditions promoting plant growth relative to a corresponding wild type plant under said conditions, comprising transforming a plant with a nucleic acid sequence encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein, said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein comprising the following motifs (i) – (iv):

(i) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 51;

(ii) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 7;

(iii) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 8;

(iv) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 9; to produce a modified plant;

growing said plant under said conditions; and

selecting said modified plant having prolonging vegetative growth phase as compared to a corresponding wild type plant .

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said increasing expression is effected by recombinant means.

Claims 5-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein is a dicotyledonous plant 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein.

Claim 11. (Cancelled)

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12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said plant is a monocot.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said transforming is effected by introducing into the plant a nucleic acid capable of increasing expression of a gene encoding said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid capable of increasing expression is a nucleic acid encoding said 2xC2H2 protein.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid introduced into the plant is an alternative splice variant of the nucleic acid encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid introduced into the plant is an allelic variant of the nucleic acid encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid introduced into the plant is comprised on at least part of a chromosome.

Claim 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein expression of said nucleic acid is driven by a plant promoter.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the plant promoter is a tissue preferred promoter.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said increased yield comprises increased above ground biomass.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said increased yield comprises increased seed yield.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said increased yield comprises increased root yield.

Claims 24-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A method for the production of a transgenic plant having increased yield, increased leaf surface area and/or prolonged vegetative growth under conditions promoting plant growth relative to a corresponding wild type plant under said conditions, which method comprises

(i) introducing into a plant or plant cell a nucleic acid sequence encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein, said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein comprising the following motifs (i) – (iv):

(a) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO:51;

(b) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 7;

(c) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 8; and

(d) a motif as comprising SEQ ID NO: 9;

(ii) Cultivating the plant or plant cell under conditions promoting plant growth; and

(iii) selecting for plants having increased yield, increased leaf surface area and/or prolonged vegetative growth.

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Claims 30-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said dicotyledonous plant is from the family Brassicaceae

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said dicotyledonous plant is *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein is SEQ ID NO:2.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein is a protein encoded by SED ID NO:1-~~or said protein is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence capable of completely hybridizing with SEQ ID NO:1.~~

Claim 48. (Canceled)

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the plant promoter is a constitutive promoter.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the promoter is a GOS2 promoter.

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the tissue preferred promoter is a seed-preferred promoter.

Claim 52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein comprises a sequence ~~represented by selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2-and sequences having 80%-homology thereto.~~

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54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein comprises a sequence represented by selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and sequences having 80% homology thereto.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein comprises a sequence represented by selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and sequences having 80% homology thereto.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein comprises a sequence represented by selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and sequences having 80% homology thereto.